

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00276 170635Z

12-S

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02 INR-07 IO-11 NSC-05

CIAE-00 /048 W

----- 042757

R 151441Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5021

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, AO, SREF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN TERMINATES ANGOLA REFUGEE SERVICES

REFS: CAPE TOWN 169, CAPE TOWN 241 (NOTAL)

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE BOTHA, SPEAKING IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN ANGOLA, TOLD PRESSMEN MARCH 15 THAT SAG WOULD WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM ALL REFUGEE SERVICES BY SATURDAY, MARCH 27 HE HAD NOTED IN HIS EARLIER STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS THAT IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT SERVICES WOULD BE TERMINATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. TEXT OF BOTHA STATEMENT: "I REPEAT THE EXPOSITION GIVEN TO THE PRESS ON FRIDAY. THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00276 170635Z

FORCE HAS DONE MORE THAN ITS DUTY WITH REGARD TO THE

REFUGEES. WE WILL RENDER NO FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN THE
REFUGEE CAMPS AFTER SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1976."

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, UNITA SOLDIERS AND CAMPT
FOLLOWERS ARE CROSSING BORDER INTO OVAMBOLAND. OWAMBO
CHIEF MINISTER, PASTOR CORNELIUS NDJOBA, TOLD PRESS
MARCH 18 THAT HIS CABINET HAD ALREADY GIVEN PERMISSION
TO 208 MEN AND 63 WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO HAVE CROSSED
BORDER TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE NEAR OSHIKANGO. PRESS
STATES THAT UPON ENTERING OWAMBO, UNITA SOLDIERS
SURRENDERED THEIR ARMS.

4. COMMENT: IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS THE PM AND FONMIN
(REFTELS) INDICATED THAT THE SAG COULD NOT ASSUME
RESPONSIBILITY INDEFINITELY FOR REFUGEE CAMPS. THEY SAID
POINT WOULD SOON BE REACHED WHERE SAG WOULD HAVE TO DIS-
CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT WHETHER OR NOT BODIES SUCH AS UNHCR
OR ICRC TOOK OVER THE CAMPS. WHEN THIS POINT WAS REACHED,
THEY NOTED, SAG WOULD SET A DATE FOR PULLOUT AND PROCEED
ACCORDINGLY. HAVING FAILED TO GET AN OUTSIDE AGENCY TO
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY, THE SAG HAS NOW SET MARCH 27 AS
THE DEADLINE. THE ICRC REPRESENTATIVE IN WINDHOEK IS
QUOTED AS SAYING ICRC LACKS IN-PLACE RESOURCES NEEDED
TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 5,000 OR MORE STILL
LIVING IN THE TWO CAMPS. TODAY WE CHECKED WITH FOREIGN
SECURETARY FOURIE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE ICRC ASSUMING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TWO CAMPS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE
SAG HAS SO FAR NOT OBTAINED ICRC AGREEMENT AND REITERATED
THAT THE SAG IS PULLING OUT AFTER MARCH 27 REGARDLESS OF
WHAT THE ICRC OR UNHCR MAY DO.
BOWDLER

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